Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (September 29th)

We live in *"a time of trouble*" (Daniel 12:1), in the midst of great tribulation. Satan and his wicked angels have been thrown out of heaven and have come down to earth "in great wrath," *with woeful "temptations to sin"* and with constant accusations (Revelation 12:8–12; Matthew. 18:7). Even so, we are encouraged by the presence and protection of St. Michael and the holy angels, whom God sends to help us in the strife (Daniel 10:11–13). By *"the authority of his Christ,"* His holy angels guard and keep us in body and soul. These heavenly servants of God preserve His human messengers on earth, the ministers of *"the blood of the Lamb,*" against all the power of the enemy, for by "*the word of their testimony,"* the Church is saved and the devil is defeated (Revelation 12:10–11; Luke 10:18–19). By their preaching and Baptism of repentance, the old Adam and the old evil foe are *"drowned in the depth of the sea*" (Matthew 18:6). As God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, so are His people delivered and raised from the dust of the earth through the forgiveness of their sins (Daniel 12:1–3).

Introit: (Psalm 103:20-22; antiphon: Psalm 103:1)

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul,

Congregation: and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

P: Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word!

C: Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!

P: Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion.

C: Bless the LORD, O my soul!

All: Gloria Patri - Page 186

Collect of the Day

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

+ Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3 +

(10) And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. (11) And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. (12) Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. (13) The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, (14) and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come." (12:1) "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. (2) And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (3) And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Gradual: (Psalm 91:11; 103:1)

He will command His angels con- | cerning you *
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless His | holy name!

+ Revelation 12:7-12 +

(7) Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, (8) but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. (9) And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (10) And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. (11) And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (12) Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

The Lutheran Confessions Responsive Reading: The Small Catechism(1529)

P: How the head of the family should teach his household to pray morning... How do we begin each day?

C:In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say:
In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: How do we prepare to stand in the battle against the devil, world, and our own sinful flesh?

C: Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, You dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

P: Equipped by the Holy Spirit with the Truth of reality and strengthened by Christ Jesus in His prayer to Our Father - where do we put our faith into loving action?

C: Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest.

Verse: (Revelation 12:11)

P: Alleluia! They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony,

C: for they loved not their lives even unto death. Alleluia!

+ Matthew 18:1-11 +

(1) At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (2) And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them (3) and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (4) Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (5) "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, (6) but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (7) "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! (8) And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. (9) And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. (10) "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. (11) For the Son of Man came to save the lost."